

claims 1-17; accordingly, claims 18-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden.

See MPEP §803 ("if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added)). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Applicants further respectfully submit that, because claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below, claims 18-20 should be rejoined and considered on the merits at this time. Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and rejoinder of claims 18-20 are respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejection

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Henri-Jean Cristau et al., "Mild and Efficient Copper-Catalyzed Cyanation of Aryl Iodides and Bromides," 11 Chem. Eur. J. 2483-92 (2005). However, as discussed in the August 22 personal interview, the cited reference was published online on February 15, 2005, nearly 10 months after the filing date of this application. Thus, the Cristau reference is not available as prior art with respect to this application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Julie M. Lake
Registration No. 51,156

JAO:JML/jml

Date: August 22, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461